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# BC News briefs

October 11 AM PAGE B1

## Popular BC marketing course renewed

The University of British Columbia's Continuing Studies program has scheduled a repeat of its new *Marketing for Small Business* course to begin February.

When the university introduced the course in October, it had no idea how popular the 15-week, three-semester, continuing, *Small Business* reports that when 5,000 high school applications were received for 20 available seats, the application committee had some hard decisions to make.

In response to the success generated by this program, program coordinator William Galt has decided to offer the program again. It runs until July. The instructor, which combines classroom and online teaching is designed for people experienced in marketing, but who want to add business aspects to their skill set. Qualify for applications to Jan. 18. Contact: <http://www.oucsd.edu>

## BC Off Road attracts attention

BC Off Road, a free commercial off-road Web site has received over 100,000 hits in its first two months of existence. Since it went online in August, it has been selected as Yahoo Canada's Pick of the Week and has been featured as VIVA's Hot Site of the Day.

According to owner Don Miller of Port Moody,

the site is meant to be a resource for British Columbians and others who have an interest in environmentally responsible use of off-road vehicles.

"My first audience is people using four-wheel drive vehicles," said Miller, "but it will also be useful to people interested in other related outdoor activities, such as hiking, hiking, or canoeing. So far, the majority of hits have come from people in the Pacific Northwest, but there have been visitors from the four corners of the globe."

Miller's goals for the site are to provide responsible off-road recreation and adventure to help protect and create recreational land use areas, and to unite the off-road community in B.C. through the Internet. To that end, free Web sites are available to new and existing organizations with suitable content, and low-cost Web sites are offered to small businesses providing products or services to off-road enthusiasts.

Some of the regular features on the B.C. Off Road Web site include: Sales from B.C. Off Road Inc., Photo Gallery, B.C. Off Road Inc. Contact: <http://www.bcoffroad.com>

B.C. News Briefs are written and compiled by Campbell, owner of Nightline Multimedia Productions. She can be reached at [campbell@nightline.ca](mailto:campbell@nightline.ca) by phoning 604-946-2424 during business hours.

# We have a winner

Don M. Sawatzky  
of Surrey, B.C.

is the winner of The *Canadian Geographic Explorer* CD-ROM for his universal rule of the site rule of Web surfing. Here is his entry:

## Why I love and how the Internet

2555 hours: Log on Internet, subject: Major music news, follow link after link after link after link after link after link after link after link after link; download: articles and pictures, and more articles and more pictures, and still more articles and still more pictures, and even more articles and even more pictures—eventually forgetting where I started out.

2543 hours: Log off Internet and stagger off to bed turning rooms and rooms of paper from an overloaded printer.

For more information on Canadian Geographic Explorer or to order call Canadian Geographic 800-267-0836 or e-mail: [merch@casgeo.ca](mailto:merch@casgeo.ca)



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# Giving a computer for Christmas?

## Do it right!

BY CARYN MILDEN

**T**hinking of picking up a new computer for Christmas? There's more involved than going to the store, plunking down some cash and taking the home-coming. If you want your technological addition to be the handy-to-perform-on-Christmas morning gift you've got to think ahead. Here's a checklist of details you should deal with before that special winter storage day.

### 1. Get what everyone needs

The computer you get is a lifestyle choice, so consider everyone who will use it before making the purchase. If your children are Macintosh converts at school, get a Mac. If your spouse uses a PC at her office and wants to bring work home, get a PC. If anyone wants to do high-end graphics, get a super computer with at least 12 MB of RAM and 2 GB of storage. If you want to play shoot-'em-up action games, get a joystick and mouse, not a keyboard. The hardware requirements listed on software boxes are minimum system requirements—get the recommended amount. But you don't necessarily need top-of-the-line gear: choose if you simply want to do word processing, your finances, a bit of online communication, and perhaps a game or two.

### 2. Order in advance

Over 60 percent of computer sales occur during the pre-Christmas buying season. That means you can't expect the exact model you want to be in stock on Christmas Eve. You may be able to get the item in hand in five days or so, wrapping present-bound funds your surprise, but make sure you order it in advance.

### 3. Get everything you need and try it out in advance

You probably don't want to leave the computer at the store until the last minute anyway. You should assemble it beforehand and install software and games to make sure everything works. Don't assume everything you need—RAM, storage, components, cables or drives—comes with your purchase.

**4. Get the right software** • If someone is asking for specific type of software, write down the name and details of various-number manufacturers and what the applications does. Before you buy any software, tell the salesperson exactly what system you have, along

with all the specifications. Don't get the upgrade version for example if you need the full package. In general, you can't return well-worn items you've opened it, so don't open anything you are uncertain about.

**5. Don't forget the little things** • You need a mouse pad, floppy disks, and printer accessories, such as paper and printer cartridges (think only of IBM/PS for color printers). You might also want data covers, supply-limited pen-like mouse keyboard, and other computer-related and a plastic disk holder. The best protects against magnets that can damage or destroy any digitally stored files. As there are magnets in your monitor, keyboard, and speakers, a plastic box is a good investment.

**6. Protect yourself** • Good quality power surge protection, as well as with the \$60 to \$80 expense if you ever have any valuable information on your machine. Don't forget power spikes can travel down telephone lines as well as get in through surge protectors. As well as get online to protect your files. You don't want the kids downloading viruses from the Internet or putting your business in their financials, names, group. Virus protection software can help you keep your system safe from the Internet and disaster, and encryption software can lock out access to your personal information.

### 7. Think of the environment

A computer system that condenses in to microchips, so give it air, warmth, and light. Clean out the heating ducts and make the sure line of dust that can damage the works, and reduce your computer's useful life. Keep the heat at room temperature (never below 10°C or higher than 30°C). Have a high voltage surge-protected light or nearby lighting. Keep the room lights on, too. But a window with direct sunlight facing you or behind you can warm and damage your eyes.

**8. Get comfortable furniture** • The desk or table should be at a height to allow your elbows to curve slightly down. The chair should allow your feet to rest easily on the ground, it should support your arms and lower back, and be adjustable for everyone who will use it. Position your monitor so the screen is directly in front of you and there's no need to bend your neck or raise or lower your eyes at angles of more than 15 degrees.

**9. Don't put it under the tree** • In the shell of the season, desks or the water from the tree holder can spill, damaging your expensive new present. If the computer is on the floor, the liquid will find its way under and up can get into the key pad and gum up the works. The floor may be too cold for the machine. Besides, you really don't want any one shaking the wrapped computer to figure out what it might be. Keep the computer separate from the other presents before and after the unwrapping.

**10. Keep the boxes, manuals, plastic bags, and packing materials** • They don't last as long as you think they do. Boxes are useful for future emergency if you have to return the computer for exchange or repair, and they're good for moving. New small boxes, made of the lighter ones and don't forget to include boxes to keep them safe.

Caryn Milden is a technology consultant and co-author of the Canadian Computer Handbook.



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AGFA



# Apple hardware holiday wish list

BY DAVID ROSEN

Here you have snuggled at your desk...it's cold! Well, perhaps Santa on your local computer wishes—all he good toys a this holiday season will bring you one of the computers we've put on our holiday wish list. With Mac prices dropping like snowflakes as well, December is just the time to shop around for the best price and service combination.

## Power in the people

For about \$5,000 you can get Power Mac 9600/200. Apple's top system for publishing, scientific, and Web site users. The 9600 is based around a PowerPC 9604 chip running at a screaming 100 MHz.

Worried about buying a new box without lots of RAM? Of course you can't. Apple's hard ware elves had you in mind when they thoughtfully stuffed a whopping 64 MB of RAM into your computer. Still not enough memory? Don't worry, the Power Mac 9600 can be expanded up to 128 MB of RAM!

Other goodies include a 4 GB hard drive, an Intrepid Zip drive, a 34 CD-ROM drive, 3 MB of video RAM, a graphics accelerator built as 10Base T and AUI Ethernet connections, and lots of other neat gadgets. Just think, with this much real stuff, you'll be able to make a list, but of your own and check it twice.

The PowerBook 5400 is still the laptop notebook computer on the planet. With the high-end model equipped with a 340 MHz PowerPC 9604 chip, the PowerBook 5400 brings desktop-level performance to any and all of it. (slight) These different configurations range in price from around \$4,900 to \$6,000 and come equipped with a 1.5" or 3.1" GB hard drive, respectively.

All three models feature 16 MB of RAM (expandable to 140 MB), a 12x CD-ROM drive, a 11.1" RGB monitor, and a magnificent 12.1" inch active-matrix LCD screen that will

do justice to Rudolph's bright lit up. Finally, the PowerBook 5400 features a 40,000 operations per day another best drive, a mag neto-optical (MO) drive, or a Zip drive.

## Alternative treats!

Well, a little too rich for your blood? Not to fear. There is here. Unless the only company left left in the Apple cloning business... (It's no SuperMac CNU fix, a fix that will cause your system to crash \$1,000. For the low \$2,000, you get a compact built around a 200 MHz PowerPC 9604 processor, 16 MB of RAM (expandable to 144 MB), and a 2 GB hard drive. Handy

reminds itself? You also get two 3x CD-ROM drives, 16 MB of RAM, and a 2 GB hard drive. Handy

agreed, could with such in speakers and 1 MB of video RAM. A really cool gadget in Apple's clonish cloned off-line 100 computer available in a range of colors including a translucent green. As soon as you see the thing, you know the clone is definitely not a Mac or a PC... although it can exchange files with either. The other 100 sports some built-in software applications for students, including basic word processing, drawing, a spreadsheet, graphing calculator, address book, and electronic calendar.

The other 100's unique industrial design is rugged enough to withstand the rigors of being carried around and used in a variety of environments. It's easily portable for elementary students, since it weighs less than 8 lbs. (4.5 lbs.) and is small enough to fit in a backpack—in Santa's sack. Apple claims the machine's long battery life (about 34 hours of continuous use between recharges) and the full-width built-in screen makes it possible for students to work who ever they want for as long as they want. It's a cool product for the student on your shopping list, even if it's on the price tag at just under \$1,100.

The modem is a KCMFax card, with self-plug features built in to give you a full duplex, speakerphone and answering machine. The Compaq Gateway Imaging Center lets you capture images from a scanner or VCR, and edit still photos.

Software on CD-ROM or DVD disc includes Windows 95, CorelWin, Intel Video Capture Utility, Microsoft Money 97, Microsoft Works, Sym City 2000, Network Edition, a list of Internet software, Microsoft Backdoor 1996-1997, Microsoft Creative Writer 2, Microsoft Encarta 97, Encyclopedia, Photo Express, Warren Miller's Ski World, and Formula 1.



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## Expensive toys

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

200 MHz Pentium II with 31 MB RAM and a 6.5 GB hard drive. The video has IBM's 4x ATI and offers AGP support and MPEG-2 support. Compaq doubles the video memory to 4 MB. There are two USB ports.

Audio features include Dolby Digital Surround Sound and 3D Virtual Surround. The speakers are attached to the monitor like ears (assuming you choose the multimedia model), but the separate subwoofer is optional.



# Multimedia gifts for kids

BY SANDRA MINGAL

**M**ultimedia publishers have churned out a huge quantity of top-notch titles for the holiday season. They include literary classics, museum exhibits, virtual reality experiences, 3D environments, aerial clips, use of video technology and even live humanoid robots. In each, young computer users can explore written and play years. Here are some titles to check out for your favorite computer player.

## The Jolly Post Office

By Kujala Media (Mac/Win)

Young fans of the Jolly Postman books by James and Allan Ahlberg will be drawn to the title. There is no story here but instead youngsters find themselves in charge of the post office—a delightful realm with cheerful, hot spots that transport them to a collection of scenarios. Basic drag-and-drop mouse clicks, simple addition, a stamp-collecting activity and the enjoyment of an enormous pane of unconfined free

## THE JOLLY POST OFFICE



in each title with objects to examine. Kids in short hands decipher clues about characters and explore drawings, scrapbooks, and much

among the familiar games. Most activities provide three difficulty levels.

Those with a modem and Internet access can design a stamp, and send it electronically to the online World Stamp Book. A postage-paid page helps children learn about each of the United States—as a postage Canada. I like it rather less. The Jolly Post Office is a good introduction to computer use but is not for very young children.

## Invader Labs

Transportation  
Houghton Mifflin Interactive (Mac/Win)

If you have a child less than six, this covering the scientific process, maps, and history behind planes, trains, and cars, this title will be a sure hit in your household.

These virtual labs are presented using a combination of interactive QuikDraw VR, live action video clips, and available text. Youngsters can get a room filled with objects to examine. Kids in short hands decipher clues about characters and explore drawings, scrapbooks, and much

Whether through the Wright brothers' workshop, Mary Gustafson Dunsen's control of the motorized automobile engine, or the discovery of steam-powered locomotion with George Stephenson, budding little engineers can design their own vehicles and send it on a series of missions, then submit the projects that depict the car's design, layout, and plans.

On the downside, several cut and paste, or even formatting, errors detract from the overall product appearance. All in all, though, this title contains good depth of scientific content and an engaging presentation.

## Talk to Me, French

Global Inc. (Win)

Second language learning is more effective when the learner can immerse himself and interact with another person. This program employs the use of speech-recognition software modeled on actual encounters with a foreign speaker. The student hears a phrase and can see a cartoon response of the speaker.

The phrase is repeated on a screen phone included in the package and an actual hot chart is displayed that compares the recorded phrase with the native speaker's phrase. Students can focus on a particular set of a sentence, or a word, or a short phrase that is the highest level of the program. The more demanding phrase students will be able to hear.

Students progress through several levels and scenarios, offering responses to a native speaker's questions. Additional exercises include fill in the blank phrases, playing words in the proper order, decision exercises to type first that is read by the computer, and a histogram game. This program is based on an interactive approach to language learning. Its strength is in the oral component. Some basic familiarity with French is needed, as well as a bit of patience to learn the vocal technology.

## Atika Nigeria

Edmark (Mac/Win)

In keeping with the Edmark tradition, this

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### Working with Lines

continued from page 29

*Table 1. Continued*

Ask a simple question.

Beim 1. und 2. Versuch wurden die Versuchstiere jeweils links

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"A highly monumental Lycra as a stable, soluble, and easy material," says Tencel.

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“We’re not government, we don’t want more money,” says a spokesman from the agency, which is busy studying “to identify other, a far better platform that is less costly and that has less applications.”

Understate again. I don't have the city's name, already known on the ground map

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The current residential base of Latinos is still estimated to be between three and five million, most of them in three or four large, fast-growing cities. Most of these are bicultural, like Puerto Rican and Cuban-Americans. Others are general populations who are looking for one educational path, language and compatibility with their host society. Still others, living in all three, are on the way to which Latinos want—and is being developed. An Latino city exists. The remnants of a truly open system are very valuable to those who choose to explore it. And the model of community-based culture that combines cultural support, a culture much better at solving problems, \*

### Virtual hockey excitement

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up as a Cameroonian—perhaps a good thing. The panel reported it was possible for them to trade players, but not as freely as with *Real Madrid*.

The panel again reported that while it was busy to get started playing, they all found a more difficult way to score with this game. Each player caught either or against the opponent. In an experiment game in a Texas Tech football field ended with a score of 9-7. The NFL 90 score was a more dramatic 2-1. This is not a difficult to score, certainly, but it is a challenge.

They had being able to manually change camera angle in NEB 30. And they had being able to play our movies in NEB 30 was the company. While ProxPlayer shows it a multi-player feature, our 4-panel was made to find it.

Rated on a score of one to 10, the panel rated this one a perfect 10, while Kovan gave it an 11, claiming, "it's just off the charts." For Das and panel director, Ars attacks its chosen to watch hockey, "just champagne—total fail for the current season." ♣

[illegible]



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## Software

# Gamer's guide to great gift giving

## info box

All games listed for approximately \$49 in \$79. Remember to check system requirements before buying anything. Happy holidays!

BY MARK SALTZMAN

There are things more difficult than finding the best 3D games of the year: choosing the best PC game for the money, or, better yet, the best value. In a market so saturated with computer and console games, it's almost like a good way to win by picking the most underrated products. I have 10 picks.

These 10 PC games offer the same top elements: the following top picks are based on value, fun, and how they'll be remembered in 1997.



### ACTION: Jedi Knight: Dark Forces II

The action-packed sequel to 1994's *Dark Forces* is one of the best. Quake-like, it's a first-person shooter. Jedi Knight: Dark Forces II is a game in the Jedi universe. The young Skywalker, now an apprentice, is sent to a dark world where he must learn the ways of the Force and the power of a Jedi. It's a great game.

Learn the ways of a building Jedi (using both good and evil powers) and navigate around the Star Wars universe from either a first person or in Quake's 3D. The story is a mix of the Jedi and the Sith. Other features include a new 3D environment, excellent music, player support, impressive level design, new dropping and scoring, a fully featured 3D soundcard, and the ability to download thousands of custom-made levels from the Internet. It's a great game. Jedi Knight is the ultimate edge between good and evil. Which side will you join?

Developer: LucasArts (Quake II) and Westwood (Quake II)

Release date: November 11 (Euro) and November 12 (US)

### STRATEGY: Age of Empires

It's a classic, enough to say a word pick

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# Books

Gamer's resource a real find

info

box

**Gilmer's Web Directory  
Sales, Secrets & Secrets**  
by Alan Salzman  
Item Ready Games  
Includes PC CD-ROM  
Price: \$49.95

BY WILLIAM A. WOOD

**M**ore Salzman's Gilmer's Web Directory is a superb resource covering the Web resources available to video gamers. And he should know. It's the only guide for the Console Computer's public.

Salzman points out in his introduction, the Web's Web's growth over the last five years has not only changed the way games are perceived, produced, reviewed and sold, but has fostered a worldwide community of gaming enthusiasts who share tips, resources and experiences with each other.

Game companies are also using the Internet to release patches, tips, strategy levels, and so on. But with more and more Web pages popping up, it's often frustrating to find out what's in the right way, combining the information you want, even with search engines (which are often less discriminating than we'd like).

Enter Salzman's book. He has separated the weblogs from the shops for you, listing in on the best sites for a wide variety of games.



the classic Land of the Living PC and console. Deep Games, Sony PlayStation and Nintendo 64 games.

Both official and unofficial, which often make the effort to scope and bring sites are covered.

The game site portion of the book is well represented by game history, action, puzzle, and so on. There's also a very handy index, for those in a hurry, plus pointers on multi-player gaming and lots of the best gaming-related and game-company sites.

The CD-ROM that comes with the book is a huge bonus, containing 11 dozen versions of best games (such as Double Dragon,

Rampage and You Don't Know Jack. More than 4,000 short spots for hundreds of games, and an HTML Hyperlink making links

page) version of the book that works in conjunction with your Internet browser (which means every site mentioned in the book becomes a

hot link! Very cool!)

If you like games, and who doesn't? get the book. It's didn't it's all here in a 100-page book.

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box

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STEPHEN ECKERT, AUTHOR OF  
INVESTING ONLINE

(discovery, this is a strengthened, in your English that makes it a reality)

In British-based online equity rights when a world view of what is available on the Net both the Web and newspaper. He freely acknowledges that the United States and Canada are the leaders in using the Net for investment purposes. His section on Canada as well other countries, outlines financial system systems, where to get market updates, and where to go for financial data and charts.

One place you'll find 15 inch floppy diskette that comes with Investing Online. It not only details updates, but used in conjunction with a browser, with just a mouse click, can instantly take you to any of the sources mentioned in the book. Another plus is advice on where to get fast and thorough investment net programs.

Early, although expensive, about online investing does not let its enthusiasm run away with him. He lays out the pitfalls and provides a short but policy section on cyber wars.

Finally, the Investing Online has a 500-page completely updated, 100,000 words when little effort would be needed to update them. And the last-chapter Net also leaves him behind on options. But because he appears to have finished writing in mid 1996, the book has only just been published. The result is that some material has already become outdated, such as his references to 33.6 Kbps modem being the fastest.

Nonetheless, Investing Online, is a book to always have handy. It is a library in a book, although, but don't stay at home without it—Get There

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## Modern speeds revisited

**Q:** I am totally confused and befuddled by the whole matter of modern speeds. I own a 33.6Kbps modem and I have wondrous tales of 28.8, 33.6, 56Kbps and even beyond that. But while downloading my Netscape browser tells me that my modem is transmitting at speeds of a measly few hundred bytes per sec.

On top of that, the transfer times don't seem consistent with even those speeds. A file at a mere 44 KB which at 33.6 bps (bits per second) should take less than four minutes, takes a half an hour to me to download. I've tried the same file in the wee hours of the morning to see if traffic volume was the culprit, while things went a little bit faster, the difference was not significant. A friend has a new pc and told system that more and I will have never seen rates as low as even of any higher than I have had.

Can you lend my reader to what's going on during downloads, why such slow rates prevail, and why download times vary even the stated rates of transfer? Thank you for any assistance you can render.

Steve via an ISP

**A:** MacShed Dave Rosen writes: I hear you. Modern speeds can be very confusing and Internet newcomers can be tough to figure out. It may speed your understanding (and download) be frank of how a modem is similar to a car, but it is not a speedometer (as you

run up to 200 kilometers per hour (or more). It doesn't mean people drive at the maximum speed—or at least they probably don't.

You can buy a really fast car, valuable at high speeds, but you would still be limited by a number of factors. These factors include speed limit, road hazards (such as potholes and debris in the road), traffic conditions (such as traffic jams or being stuck behind a pile-up), and weather problems.

Modems also speed cars for the maximum number of bits of information they are capable of handling. For example, your 33.600 bps per second modem transmits at approximately 1,400 characters per second (taking the complex math, the rate of 10 bps is to divide the stated speed by 10 to get the number of characters per second possible) in the good old days of text-only messages, 1,400 characters a second would mean that a one-page letter could be transmitted in about a second—and that's pretty impressive.

In these days of multimedia-enabled files such as sound, animation, graphics, and even full-motion video, transmission speeds of 1,400 characters per second can be agonizingly slow. As hardware speeds, software developments, and content providers figure out more things to slow (and speed) you, unfortunately, the internet every thing slows down in a real way.

Nevertheless, a 56Kbps modem is the standard

for surfing the Internet, not downloading heavy-duty graphics. Some people are looking at cable "modems" that are claimed to be faster than the typical traditional modem at least for downloading.

Anyone who has even used a modem has seen displayed that they often fail to transmit at their maximum speed. Poor telephone lines, service glitches at your Internet service provider, problems on the Internet itself, speed limits at the host computer and lots of other problems can cause the Internet you depend on to perform badly. Many folks run their computers "fully loaded," meaning they download a lot of many applications that computers are juggling. Surfing the Internet takes a lot of processor power. Even the latest Power Mac II (PowerPC-based) computer will slow to a crawl if you ask it to do too much. Try surfing with only your browser running. You may see some download speed improvements.

The important thing to keep in mind is that your transmission speed depends on the slowest link in your communications chain. Maybe it's your slow modem. Maybe you're connected using an old, slow telephone line or a bad cable. Check again if you have a really fast modem, you'll find how problems in your Internet Web site are slowing you as do download times to some Web's download.

For downloading a lot of data known to be fast and downloading. Sites such as Microsoft's

home page (<http://www.microsoft.com>) or Apple's local office (<http://www.apple.com>) are fast and fast and have lots of 56Kbps modems. Otherwise, have a chat with your ISP support people and figure out why your download rates are not up to speed.

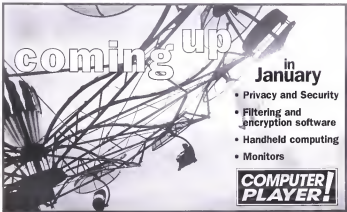
## Partners please!

**Q:** I look for and enjoy your column every month. Keep up the good work. Now I have a problem that I hope you can help me with. I have a 5 GB SCSI drive with no software in my drive. As a backup, I have an internal SCSI portable drive partitioned exactly the same way. When I want to back up my OS's, I connect it to my backup drive and XCPPI everything including the operating system. This works great! It's a drive mess, but I can not think of a use for the backup and can think of it nothing has happened.

Now to the rest of my problem. I am considering purchasing a 5 GB SCSI so that I can backup several computers to the one backup SCSI drive. Problem is, OS's won't recognize disks after drive "D", and if I partition a 5 GB drive the way I want to I'll end up with only 33 partitions. Is there a way around that?

Murray

**A:** Kevin Lafferty responds: It is an OS's (just DOS and Windows) limitation that you cannot have more than 33 active partitions (drive C to Z).



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# Mac users pledge allegiance



**Industry Insider**

Lee Iester

You have to hand it to Alr Inc. During a recent fund drive by Pittsburgh area public radio station WDSQ at Duquesne University, it received a pledge from a Mac user who offered \$500 if 20 more made pledges by the end of the show.

For the next two hours, the hosts kept urging Mac fans to use their phones. Every pledge made, the radio broadcast was repeated over and over as they reported how many had already pledged money.

The result: the Mac got loads of free publicity, and WDSQ received pledges from the required 20 callers—within a half hour of open.

## Nader's ratings target Microsoft

Microsoft has both the U.S. Justice Department and an American consumer group after it for alleged monopolistic practices.

The Computer Project on Technology, acting on behalf of consumer advocate Ralph Nader, hopes to team up with some of Microsoft's biggest competitors and critics including two Microsofts' chief executive officer Scott McNealy and Netscape Communications general counsel Roberto Katz.

## Datagen generating profits

Data General ended a record-breaking year with the highest fiscal year revenues in its 29-year history. It reported net income from fiscal 1994 fiscal 1994, its first quarter, ended Sept. 27, it had a \$154.7 million net profit with its highest ever quarterly revenue of \$344.4 million (versus \$339.5 million a year earlier when it had \$333.1 million) on fiscal 1994. Datagen made a net profit of \$344.4 million from its last four annual revenue of \$344.4 million.

The company said by International Data Corp. to be the worldwide Windows NT market leader in enterprise data systems that sell for between \$250,000 and \$500,000 and has reported increased earnings per share and higher year-over-year revenues for nine consecutive quarters.

## Silicon Graphics chief leaving

Silicon Graphics chairman and chief executive officer Edward R. McCracken is stepping down in the wake of falling server sales, a \$550 million first quarter net loss, up from \$12 million in the same quarter a year ago.

The company will be off-year to soon employees—about 20 percent of its world-wide workforce.

## Gates of hell?

British computer maker ST, claims Microsoft chairman and chief executive officer Bill

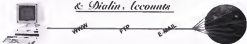
Gates grabbed undeserved publicity in a British government proposal to link the nation's schools to the Internet.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair met the world's richest man and announced the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

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## UBC releases watershed management software

BY JANE CAMPBELL

In late September the Institute for Resources and Environment at the University of British Columbia released *Improved Watershed Management* (CD-ROM in electronic textbook designed) to accompany off and on campus distributed learning courses or to be used as a guide for professionals and community groups who are interested in watershed management and education.

According to research associate Sandra Brown, the digital format was selected instead of traditional print because of the interactivity that is possible with a CD-ROM, but impossible in a textbook.

"When you're working on an interdisciplinary course that presents a problem, solving approach combining issues from rural urban forestry, hydrology, agriculture and geomorphology and stream pollution control, you need a format that allows people to interact with the content to look at different topics in different dimensions," said Brown.

Trailbooks are linear—you move through them from front to back. With a hyperlinked CD ROM, people can move around at their own pace and at a chosen level of detail. Because it is linked to our World Wide Web

MR. SMITH CAN RECEIVE updated information and issues often related Web says. All users have access to Hypernews, our electronic message board, and users registered at the UBC course EMBEXCHG can post messages and interact with instructors, and other students."

The generic CD-ROM contains a total of over 100 company files, 400 images, graphics, text and searchable references along with all aspects of watershed management. Over 400 reference titles are accessible and searchable from anywhere on the disc. The software for the CD-ROM includes pre-installed geodatabases, gradient, watersheds, resource managers and planners, regulatory assessment and community groups. The techniques covered are applicable for use in development projects and are pertinent to all those interested in sustainable development, particularly in mountain and headwater areas.

One month after being released, approximately 20 coppers have been sold to interested parties and continuously groups covering from Europe, the United States, Australia, Thailand, New Zealand, Philippines and Mexico. Integrated Watershed Management, which was developed by a team of seven people over a year has received positive feedback from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The show sells for about \$100 and may be ordered from the Institute for Environment and

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# The cookie, the cart, and the screwdriver



For this story before the AntennaStarters the only thing on Apple's Web site went pictures of a cookie, a shopping cart, and a screwdriver. Then Apple told us what was on its mind.

## The cookie

Apple has announced a new series of computers called the Power Macintosh G3 series. Based on the third-generation PowerPC G3 processor from IBM and Motorola, the new Apple designs include many technical advancements: spinning floppy up, lowering overall costs, and adding more features. Apple also claims that the G3 series will simplify the Macintosh line, paving the way for a future product—something—something that's long overdue. By the time you read this, Apple says 40 thousand of the G3 systems should be available in stores.

- The Power Macintosh G3 at \$2,999 is a 233 MHz, 32 MB RAM desktop computer that supports up to 192 MB of RAM. It comes with a 4 GB hard drive, a 24x CD-ROM drive (maximum speed), a 16x video SGRAM, and 32x480 of level 2 backside cache.
  - The Power Macintosh G3 at \$1,999 is a 233 MHz, 32 MB RAM desktop computer that supports up to 192 MB of RAM. It comes with a 4 GB hard drive, a 24x CD-ROM drive (maximum speed), an internal 16x video SGRAM, and 32x480 of level 2 backside cache.
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  - The PowerBook G3 at \$1,199 is a 233 MHz, 32 MB RAM notebook computer that supports up to 192 MB of RAM. It comes with a 4 GB hard drive, a 24x CD-ROM drive (maximum speed), a 12x inch advanced SVGA color display, and 32x480 of level 2 backside cache.
- And the cookie is in? Well, it's all got to do with the new chips. Dear Reader, you see it's a chocolate chip cookie. Get it? G3.

## The cart

Thankfully the cart isn't as big as it used to be. Customers in the United States can now buy Macs directly from Apple via the Internet. That's right, Apple has opened its online store and is currently selling computers from its Web page (\$4 to [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)). Canadian customers, however, will have to wait a few more months before they are able to buy Macs online.

\*Apple's Internet commerce efforts are

designed to address customers demand to buy directly from Apple and to be able to order specific configurations. It is not a way

to compete with our current distribution channels, but a means to complement them," says Steve Jobs, Apple's Internet chief exec.

The effort and impact of the Second Step And Moving Spaces is a prepared statement.

ARTICLE BY PATTY JOE



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# Varied past perfect for consulting career

BY JANE CAMPBELL

**W**hat do you do when you have three diverse skill sets and want to find a career that lets you use them all? For Anne Coulombe of Synapse Systems, the answer was to try one a consultant, helping businesses grow through the use of such technology.

It takes three distinct skills to successfully manage a business in the '90s: business acumen, marketing know-how, and an understanding of the use of technology, says Coulombe. "And that combination is rarely found in one person."

Originally from Ottawa and Quebec City, she obtained a bachelor of arts degree in industrial relations from Laval University in 1985. Next came a degree in computer science from University of Quebec at Trois Rivières in 1987, followed by an masters of business administration in technology engineering management from City University in Seattle in 1995.

In Vancouver, Coulombe worked for Consumer Software Inc. until it was bought by Microsoft. She continued with Microsoft

as a program manager working between a lot of use technology (including email gateway) and the marketing spokesperson.

After several years, Coulombe moved to Electronic Arts Canada as director of technology, where she wanted to take on more interactive entertainment with the entertainment administration, a position that had not yet been implemented by Microsoft.

An director of technology, Coulombe was one of only four women in North America in such that level in a company. In 1993, she left employment in back road.

Coulombe took some time out to talk about her varied high technology career path with Computer Player's contributor Jane Campbell.

**Computer Player:** What made you go on to Seattle?

**Anne Coulombe:** I was working in SR [human resources] for the provincial govern-

ment of Quebec in 1985 when I asked myself what would influence companies the most over the next 10 years. The answer was computers.

**CP:** Did you have a computer at the time? **AC:** Microsoft had never programmed. But I did surprisingly well after being told by the dean that I was going to flunk because I didn't have the prerequisites (math, and that women don't do this sort of thing). I finished near the top at my class and went into the industry full time. I've been working in a male dom-

inated universe for a long time. **CP:** What's your business focus now? **AC:** I'm focusing on a newly emerging industry: agricultural use of technology. This covers everything from control systems to safety business, from efficiently keeping out the real cost of doing business. It includes Web sites and email and production tools

and fishing all that together effectively. Not all agricultural and horticultural are ready to use technology. My goal is to bring the whole industry up to speed with tools that are being used elsewhere. It's very important that they use technology as a tool, not as a toy. I never suggest that they invest.

**CP:** What are your clients? **AC:** This is the time to mind are Brookside Orchid Garden in Langley and the United Farmers' Growers' Cooperative (UFG) in Burnaby. With Brookside Orchid Garden, it helped them use technology to figure out the cost of doing business. In track production and to make their products to compete with big boys.

With UFG it is the project manager for the technology component of a large program that is underway. UFG is the industry's main market place for growers and buyers of potting and soil flowers. They grow over \$40 million a year, it's the largest Dutch cut-flower auction website, at Holland.

**Branching out:** **CP:** After other types of careers, do you plan to?

## Animator in a strange land

BY PAUL LIMA

**L**ike many animators, Bruce Buckley is a stranger in a strange land, but he's here to work, not to leave. While he's not on the scene, his computer-generated animation work is.

The Hamilton, Ont. native is a life living in a strange land: the United States. But that's where he and thousands of other Canadian animators have to live if they want to ply their computer-generated animation (CGA) trade.

Buckley has been working for Walt Disney Studios for almost three years and he is currently working on *Disney's A CGA movie* as in the last several years. The film describes how action backgrounds and computer-generated characters, such as dinosaurs and dragons.

As lead animator responsible for the movie, Buckley is responsible for the creation of the 3D dinosaurs, virtual sets and props, and controls that will enable the dinosaurs to talk.

Buckley, who studied photography at Sheridan College in Ontario, worked as a freelance photographer and a photographic technician with the provincial government while taking night school courses in film studies, television production, and computers.

He was introduced to mainstream computer-generated imagery (CGI) while working for the government. "This new medium

thrilled me," Buckley says. So excited was he that in 1987, he quit his job and went back to school at Sheridan College, where he studied computer graphics and technical illustration.

**Byproduct business:**

The first time he did the work was with the art and design studio for the film. The studio knew it knew a way to how to push others on software packages, but rather how to create visuals. "The emphasis was not communication, not the tool," he says.

After graduating, he started an independent CGA company. He and two partners invested in a Silicon Graphics 4020 workstation and software from Alias Communications, but they were slightly ahead of their time. The more they saw put out in few companies were taking advantage of CGA in design and advertising.

The experience earned him a job with Alias, where he began working with designers to create logos, naming sheets, glow charts, and even on computer. While there, he started to develop characters, "using 3D algorithms to digital clip," and found himself on the leading edge of the burgeoning CGA and CGA industry.

Suddenly, Buckley's skills were in demand in the United States. Synapse is a Connecticut-based company recruited him to work as a senior computer animator. There, Industrial Light and Magic (ILM) came calling.

ILM already employed several other Canadians, including Steve Williams of Star Wars fame and the other was a woman came from the Buckley landed up his car and moved to San Rafael, Calif., where he worked for 11 months on *Casper*, the first

franchise animation produced totally on computers. He then built Dream the Dragon in the movie *Dragonheart* and wrote *Star Wars* and worked on *Casper*.

**The Disney dream:**

Disney called him a job working on the *Dinosaur* project and he had to say yes. "This is far out the greatest challenge project in entire computer-generated animation, for the best animation company in the world."

Most of the stress at Disney are there because of the projects they get to work on, he says. "We worked hard and long to perfect our craft and we are excited about what we are doing at Disney."

Working at Disney has

allowed Buckley the opportunity to work with talented artists from England, India, Italy, Spain, China, Japan, India and all around the United States. Sometimes, Disney feels as multicultural as Canada. Everyone has a voice and the individual backgrounds add to the creative process.

Buckley left Canada because companies here were only doing 2D work, not full 3D animation for motion films. Now,

Disney has set up a demand to video interactive media in Toronto and the same is looking for him, but Buckley is not sure he would ever leave home now.

Disney has been good to me and has encouraged me to grow personally. They have sponsored an art show for him and are sponsoring another show early in 1998. As well as things are going, though, there are times, Buckley confesses, he and his wife Ruth miss the East coast.

Perhaps if the Canadian CGA industry matures, Buckley may find himself back here, throwing snow balls at the winter and riding horses in the fall. Until then, he is content to be a stranger playing his trade in a strange land. ♦





**AC:** Another facet of my business is event production and M&A/S&D (marketing, research and development & sales) support. I help clients with both of tax credits and with the installation of point-of-sale systems.

**CP:** Where is the leading technology?

**AC:** People don't appreciate technology in

commerce until technology becomes so important that it costs so long. Then we make the mistake of making it so that people won't want it. Technology developers must provide users what they need and want.

**CP:** Who did you work for in R & D? How is business in the emerging technology industry now?

**AC:** It was for the good thing, but it stayed because of the technology and because I can effectively work in almost any state-of-the-art business by either going up early or staying up late.

**CP:** What would you tell young people?

**AC:** That it's hard work, but extremely rewarding. We're making an industry right now.

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## OS/2

continued from page 36

Windows in the OS/2 support limited. Screen shots are available, but we need more availability yet. Definitely looks promising, and I'll be sure to report any significant progress, as I would love to see some of my electronic Windows 95 programs under OS/2.

## Features of the month

Most computer users who use multiple operating systems have some problems transferring files between them. If they are such operating systems, native file systems. Now OS/2 users can access programs and files on Windows NT's file system (NTFS). The feature program NTFS OS/2 currently allows the user to access NTFS partitions, and the author claims that if there is sufficient interest, he will add write access too.

Grab that "they" from the title, you can use [os2ntfs@compuserve.com](mailto:os2ntfs@compuserve.com) for a trial copy, and for the author team if you want write access added.

**Kevin Delfino** is a Toronto-based consultant and freelance writer. He can be reached via email at [kdel@telus.ca](mailto:kdel@telus.ca).

## MacRant

continued from page 47

Maybe so, but industry might suggest there may be another reason behind the Apple's direct approach. A few weeks ago, maybe last March, Delfino asked what he would do if he ran Apple. After thinking for a moment, Dell replied something along the lines of, "I'd clean it down, tell everything off, and give the shareholders their money back." Perhaps the ball's now over Dell's shoulder, too. I've learned on the Internet during the announcement was more than a simple AV error? Could it be that when jobs looked up at the ball's eyed Dell and could get, "We're coming after you, buddy," he wasn't just talking about Apple's current market share?

## The screediver

No, it's not what you might be thinking. The screediver tool reproduces the company's own build-to-order distribution model, making Apple the only computer company to sell all its products through retail stores, mailboxes and the Internet. The coolest part about the drive is it was developed by Next Software, a technology developed by Next Software Inc. the company founded by Jobs and acquired by Apple in January. WebObjects was used to build Dell Computer's original online store. Oh, the irony!

**Have a 'Rent All Backback?** Send your news to [MacRant@compuserve.com](mailto:MacRant@compuserve.com). Please note that due to the volume of mail, individual questions cannot be answered.

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# "Perfect evening" but imperfect earnings

BY CHRISTOPHER BERRY

**T**his Christmas, give Corel what it calls a "perfect evening." Michael Corelwood would like to see you, many with little understanding, include a video-enabled network computer with video graphics themes in his good memory. Give some tough financial news this year—including the US\$50 million loss reported at the end of the third quarter by Corel—Canada's well-known company is looking on his own Toronto gift: a better 1998.

In the end, Corelwood is banking on past successes and future possibilities.

The Video Network Computer (VNC) recently released by Corel's subsidiary Corel Computer Corp., generates the Ottawa-based company in the starting gate of the VNC market. Furthermore, in VNC, which sells between US\$799 and US\$1,600 depending on the model, taps into Corel's new and Java strategy, called Connect.

#### Standing out

Instead of creating Java software suites for individual PCs, Corel's original plan—

to finally sell goods as a virtual market with the VNC, can occur. Furthermore, understanding capital is not unique in the marketplace and can only help position Corel as a front-runner.

The fact that Corel's VNC comes with videoconferencing capabilities makes it unique in the marketplace, and can only help position Corel as a front-runner.

They're the only company that has combined a network computer with application software on a server," she says. "Maybe they can make their play out of this combination."

But while Corel has jumped in the VNC marketplace, the company is quick to note that its equity is in its employees' old "real" call. Finally, says Corel, a newly appointed senior vice president of sales, Don Sylvester.

The graphics side of our business is the live and foundation of our business."

With a 75 to 80 percent global market share in the number of education software titles shipped using the Windows system, it's no wonder Corel is a leader in standards in Corel's product line—services, the recent launch of CorelDraw 8, with a new Mac version set for release in February.

Corel's graphics business also gives the company a chance to show some of the plus displayed by

Corelwood and his franchisee's family.

#### The perfect evening

At October 1, Corel held "The Perfect Evening" which officially launched CorelDraw 8 and awarded US\$5 million in

cash and prizes to winners of the company's annual graphics design contest.

The year's US\$250,000 "Best of Show" winner was Hans Inoué, a student of Rydell, who was recognized by about 50 judges—including the editor of this newspaper, Mike Gohmert—who his design depicting Ottawa's small village in Italy's Umbria region.

As revealed in Kinkaid, was at accepting his award in helping English, the Government could avoid being overwhelmed by Corel's and down at the evening, Corelwood's wife Marion and her 14-year-old son, Thomas, were on hand. Thomas, on the right side, the staff received quite a bit of praise. Corelwood, much to the delight of his local news photographers.

Perhaps even more revealing was the woman wearing the dress. Although Corelwood's wife Marion was on hand, she was not there. Marion, the Corel's wife, was revealed to her own with her new year.

Maybe, the event, if the stock in her husband's company rises, "he'll buy me the other half of the dress." ♦

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## 知多一點點 (一)

什麼要統一區？

中文字在這範圍內。每個字都必須有一個或多個字元來代表。目前，臺灣的學者與業者台灣所定的大五碼的標準，而國際字元以二個大陸所定的國家標準碼（簡體碼與大五碼）為中文電腦內碼。近年來微軟(Microsoft)所採用的簡體碼並沒有不同標準內碼的問題，因為微軟推出了一套新的軟體與硬體系統，需要更換到各種語言的版卡。西方國家字元分佈組合，一個內碼只占一個byte（最高可容納256個字元），而東方語言如中文、簡體與大五碼，一個內碼字元佔兩個byte，所以政府與學術中文在電腦上雙語言數字。為解決開發各種語言版本的不便，微軟最近「全球化所有語言的電腦內碼」這就經濟所將的統一碼。又稱Unicode。

而現在螢幕上顯示不正確，或受到英文字自動替換功能影響，將中文字改寫，又或是即時中文字無法正確排列等問題。而新一代的遊戲軟體，如 Microsoft 或 Windows NT 4.0 等，皆直接支援雙碼一碼。在這些軟體內使用一種輸入中文字時，所有到中文詞和英文字一樣，以單字題的方式顯示。而且不會受到自動更換的影響。所有英文軟體所呈現的排版及排版效果，皆能隨地使用。而也不會擔心自動換門中文句子的問題。

### 第一、二题的正确答案：

目前軟體支援統一碼的還不多，且大部份中文系統只能支援大五碼和國標碼。如果你的文件是用統一碼所構成的，除非對方的中文系統也能支援統一碼才可閱讀你的文件。部份印表機尚無法支援統一碼，讀

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## What is Unicode?

The Unicode Worldwide Character Standard is a character coding system designed to support the interchange, processing, and display of the written texts of the diverse languages of the modern world. In addition, it supports classical and historical texts of many written languages.

The Unicode standard contains 38,885 distinct coded characters derived from 25 supported scripts. These characters cover the principal

written languages of the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, India, Asia, and Pacific.

## Chinese Gateway



is the first 32-bit Chinese interface for Windows NT, OS and 3.1. You can read, write and print Chinese characters from Internet and any Windows application supporting Unicode, Big5, or GB codes.

This information about Unicode is quoted from the Internet. Search for "Unicode"

For more current information on Chinese Gateway, you can go to its web page [www.chinesegateway.com](http://www.chinesegateway.com) or simply call Instant Solutions at 212.613.8183.

統一碼的優點：

相信許多在英文網頁上使用過中文系統的人，都會看過雙字都在英文軟體上使用的不便。由於英文網頁在設計上並沒有考慮到雙字體顯示的使用，目前所有的中文圖畫系統，必須自行處理所有中文的顯示、印表，及網路傳輸。有些應用軟體在使用這些中文時，或多或少會有一些問題。如中文字

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